

comprising a fibrous web having a compression resilience, said fibrous web comprising a plurality of openings extending therethrough in a direction of a thickness of the fibrous web, and barriers surrounding and defining said openings,

said barriers comprising a shape holding layer formed from a plurality of thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers and a body fluid retaining layer placed upon one of an upper surface and a lower surface of said shape holding layer and formed from a plurality of thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers mixed with an absorbent material, said shape holding layer and said body fluid retaining layer having patterned surface areas that are substantially coextensive,

C1 said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers of said shape holding layer being hot welded together at contact points thereof in said shape holding layer,

said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers of said body fluid retaining layer being hot welded together at contact points thereof in said body fluid retaining layer, and

said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers of said shape holding layer and said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers of said body fluid retaining layer being hot welded to each other along an interface at contact points of said shape holding layer and said body fluid retaining layer.

Please add new claims 12 and 13 as follows:

--12. (New) The body fluid absorbent panel according to Claim 1, wherein said shape holding layer comprises a liquid-permeable material.--

C2 --13. (New) A body fluid absorbent panel for a sanitary wearing article comprising a

fibrous web having a compression resilience, said fibrous web comprising a plurality of openings extending therethrough in a direction of a thickness of the fibrous web, and barriers surrounding and defining said openings,

C2 said barriers comprising a shape holding layer formed from a plurality of thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers and a body fluid retaining layer placed upon one of an upper surface and a lower surface of said shape holding layer and formed from a plurality of thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers mixed with an absorbent material, said shape holding layer surrounding peripheral edges of each of the plurality of openings,

said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers of said shape holding layer being hot welded together at contact points thereof in said shape holding layer,

said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers of said body fluid retaining layer being hot welded together at contact points thereof in said body fluid retaining layer, and

said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers of said shape holding layer and said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers of said body fluid retaining layer being hot welded to each other along an interface at contact points of said shape holding layer and said body fluid retaining layer.--